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Seeds of Honey Plants

Offered by

PELETT GARDENS

Atlantic, Iowa

We offer herein seeds of some of the most promising of the several hundred plants under observation in the American Bee Journal trial gardens. A good share of the plants offered in this our 1944 list are equally valuable to the gardener and bee-keeper.

BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

(*Lotus corniculatus*)

Birdsfoot trefoil is a very drought-resistant forage plant which is new to American agriculture. Recent tests have indicated that it is adapted to a wide variety of soils and will succeed under varied climatic conditions. It appears to succeed on soils where alfalfa or the clovers do poorly and indications are that the acreage will expand rapidly when farmers become familiar with it. It is especially valuable when mixed with grasses for a pasture crop.

In England it is regarded as a valuable bee plant and beemen in eastern New York report good crops of well flavored honey from it. It blooms freely in early summer and continues with a light bloom until frost. For field culture prepare as for clover or alfalfa and seed in either spring or fall. Three to six pounds of seed per acre,

20 cents per packet, \$2 per pound postpaid, ~~five pounds or more by express collect \$1.50 per pound.~~ Nitragin Inoculation for Birdsfoot Trefoil, 1 bu. size can 55c, postpaid.

ANISE-HYSSOP or FRAGRANT GIANT HYSSOP (*Agastache anethiodora*)

This wonder honey plant attracts the bees more consistently than any other of the 500 under observation in American Bee Journal trial garden.

Anise-hyssop is a native plant which was much used by the Indian. From it was made a beverage for use as we use tea. It was also used for flavoring other foods and from it was extracted a remedy for colds. It is strange that this plant should have been completely overlooked by our herb gardeners. It is very fragrant and has a long flowering period from June until October. The plant is perennial and worthy of a place in any ornamental garden as well as herb garden. As a bee plant it ranks very high. Pioneer settlers reported fine crops of honey from it.

Seed of anise-hyssop is very small, perhaps a half million to the pound. The seed should be planted in late fall, winter or early spring when soil is cool. If the tiny seedlings are permitted to dry out before well rooted they die. We have had best success with a well prepared seed bed and sowing the seed on top of the ground at any time in winter or very early spring. A light sprinkle of straw to protect the young plants from the sun has proved helpful.

~~Seed 20 cents per packet, ¼ ounce \$1, 2 ounces \$5.~~ Small plants six for one dollar. Postpaid.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE **(Lythrum salicaria)**

Purple loosestrife is very adaptable and will grow either on dry land or in boggy spots with its roots in water. The abundant pink flowers are very ornamental and last for weeks in mid-summer. It is the source of much good honey in some localities.

The seed which is very small should be sown on top of the ground in late winter or early spring. Seed 20 cents per packet, ½ ounce \$1.00, postpaid.

Yellow spider flower or **GOLDEN CLEOME (Cleome lutea)**

Golden celome is a native of the southwest, which has too long been overlooked as an ornamental. An annual of easy culture, it grows to a height of six or seven feet and blooms from July until frost with a constantly increasing number of flower clusters. It must have plenty of room. Plants should not be nearer than three or four feet apart. One of the finest of honey plants, attractive to many kinds of insects. Plant in early spring while soil is cool. Seed 20c per packet.

DRAGONHEAD **(Dracocephalum moldivici)**

An annual of the mint family which is of easy culture and reseeds readily. Very attractive to the bees. Seed 20c per packet.

PHACELIA HIRSUTA

An annual native from Virginia to Kansas which can easily be naturalized in sunny situations and which is much visited by bees in early summer. Sow on top of ground in early spring while soil is still cool. Seed 20c per packet.

PRICKLY POPPY (Argemone)

The white prickly poppy is a native to the southwest and is a common sight from Kansas to Texas. It is an annual of easy culture and with large white flowers for a long time in summer. The bees are much attracted to this plant for pollen. Seed 20c per packet.

THE SAGES

Among the sages are many fine bee plants and a collection of them in the garden will prove attractive to the bees from May until September as one comes into bloom as others fade. The sages can be planted anytime during spring or summer. Early spring planting is preferable. If planted in hot weather, the seedbed should be kept shaded until the plants are well started. One packet each of the five species listed here for 75 cents postpaid.

GARDEN SAGE, (*Salvia officinalis*)

The garden sage has been cultivated for centuries for its aromatic leaves which are used in flavoring foods. It is a long lived perennial and should be included in every garden. The flowers are attractive to bees and a high quality honey is gathered from garden sage. Seed 20c per packet.

BALKAN SAGE (*Salvia silvestris*)

Balkan sage was found by an English beekeeper during the first world war and seed taken to his garden in England. With us it has proved to be an unusually attractive perennial garden flower and bee plant. The flowers are covered with bees in June with a second flowering in September. Perennial. 20c per packet.

SALVIA PRATENSIS

Salvia pratensis comes to us from England. It is a perennial of easy culture. The flowers are larger than the Balkan sage and are visited by many bumblebees as well as honeybees. Flowers open in May and are mostly faded before middle of June although some bloom continues for weeks. Perennial. 20c per packet. Plants, six for \$1.00. Postpaid.

BULGARIAN SAGE (*Salvia jurisici*)

The Bulgarian sage is a hardy perennial with finely cut leaves which blooms freely during June and like others of this group attracts the bees in large numbers. Seed 20c per packet.

SALVIA SUPERBA

This is a strong growing sage reaching a height of about three feet and blooming intermittently all season. It blooms very freely in May and June and again in September with some flowers all summer. It is usually swarming with bees. It is quite similar in appearance to *Salvia silvestris* but blooms over a longer period and is somewhat stronger in growth. Seed 20c per packet.

ASTER

The asters are the last source of nectar in many localities. We offer several of the most ornamental varieties including New England aster, smooth aster, and arrow leaf aster. All are worthy of a place in any garden. Plant in early spring while the ground is cool. Perennial. 20c per packet.

GLOBE THISTLE

(*Echinops spaerocephalus*)

Globe thistle once enjoyed a real bloom among the beekeepers under name of Chapman Honey Plant. The plant is biennial and reaches a height of two to three feet. The flowers are covered with bees and are much grown for ornament. Mid-summer bloomer. Plant in early spring. Seed 20c per packet.

WINGSTEM OR CROWNBREAD

(*Actinomeris alternifolia*)

Wingstem is a rather coarse perennial about five feet tall with irregular yellow flowers. It never fails to find the bees working it freely when in bloom. One of the best of the native honey plants of the Mississippi Valley. Will grow in either sun or shade. Beekeepers of an earlier day called it "Golden Honey Plant." Where this plant is plentiful the beekeeper need never worry about abundant stores for winter. August bloomer. Fine for waste land. Plant in winter or early spring while ground is cool. 20c per packet. Two czs. \$1.00.

HORSEMINT (*Monarda punctata*)

Horsemint is a summer blooming honey plant which beekeepers have found it possible to naturalize on light soils. For sandy soils it appears to be one of the best. In some localities it can be depended upon to yield nectar quite regularly. It is found more or less commonly on such soils growing wild from New York to Minnesota and southward. Seed is small and should be planted in winter or early spring. 20c per packet.

PEA TREE (*Caragana arborescens*)

The pea tree is a very hardy shrub or small tree which comes from Siberia. It is drought resistant and is much used for hedge in the Dakotas and in western Canada. It is a free bloomer and the pea-like blossoms yield an abundant supply of well flavored honey in spring. It grows readily from seed which should be planted in fall or early spring after soaking in warm water. Seed 20c per packet.

CATNIP (*Nepeta Cataria*)

Catnip is a famous bee plant common to our grandmother's herb gardens. It has since been widely naturalized in fence corners and unused gardens. Perennial, blooming over a long period and never failing to attract the bees. Sow the seed in early spring while the ground is cool. 20c per packet.

NEPETA MACRANTHA

This is a relative of the catnip and grows to a height of three or four feet. Blooming in June and July it is very attractive to the bees. Perennial. Seed 20c per packet.

FIGWORT (*Scrophularia marilandica*)

Figwort is a never failing attraction to the bees, but its flowers are small and with little attraction as an ornamental. It grows to a height of about five feet and once established in either sun or shade provides rich bee pasture. A perennial which the beekeeper will do well to plant on waste lands. It had a great boom about fifty years ago under name, "Simpsons Honey Plant." The seed is very small. Plant in winter or early spring while ground is cool. 20 c per packet.

Seed of any of the above, 20c per packet, or six packets for one dollar.

Any fifteen packets for two dollars. Postpaid.

BOOKS

AMERICAN HONEY PLANTS by Frank C. Pellett. This is a book of 420 large pages with 204 illustrations. It is printed on enameled paper and bound in imitation leather. The first book in the English language in its field it covers the plants important to the beekeeper as no other book has ever done. \$3. Postpaid.

FLOWERS OF THE WILD by Frank C. Pellett. A book about wild flowers based on thirty years experience with several hundred species. More than 100 photographs and four color plates illustrate the text. Here will be found useful information for insuring success with native plants. Cloth binding, 168 pages. \$1 per copy postpaid.

BIRDS OF THE WILD by Frank C. Pellett. This book is designed to provide information as to the requirements to be met in attracting wild birds. Nesting sites, feeding stations, watering places and plants to provide food are discussed freely. 128 pages, cloth binding, \$1 postpaid.

A LIVING FROM BEES by Frank C. Pellett. A cloth bound book of 304 pages, well illustrated which as its title suggests outlines proved methods of making a living from bees. The fundamentals of honey production are explained with reasons for every necessary manipulation.

Conditions under which beekeeping is practical as an exclusive business and when it is better to be followed as a sideline are discussed at length. \$2. Postpaid.

MELVIN PELLETT

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Atlantic, Iowa

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